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ABSTRACT

Continuing the conversation began in the book "Invitations," this book further explores the full universe of an effective language arts and literacy program across the curriculum. Filled with an array of field-tested teaching ideas, detailed strategies, reviews of theory, teacher-crafted lessons, and lists of annotated resources, the book presents teachers with what they need to become an informed, confident professional, sensitive to students' needs and interests. It is grounded in the belief that the connections, interactions, reflections, and new thinking that evolve from rich dialogue define what teachers know. Chapters in the book are: (1) Teacher as Professional; (2) A Comprehensive Literacy Program; (3) The Literature Program; (4) Teaching Children to Read; (5) Literature Conversations; (6) Quality Writing: Principles, Problems, and Goals; (7) Journal Writing; (8) Organizing for Writing: Procedures, Processes, and Perspectives; (9) Writing in Multiple Genres; (10) Spelling and Word Study in the Reading-Writing Classroom; (11) Reading Nonfiction; (12) Curriculum Inquiry: Developing a Questioning Stance toward Learning; (13) Critical Resources for Curriculum Inquiry: Librarians, School Libraries, and Technology; (14) Developing Collaborative Communities: Creation, Organization, and Sustenance; and (15) Evaluation as Part of Teaching. Attached are "The Blue Pages: Resources for Teachers," a 240-page collection of: annotations of professional resources, journals, newsletters, periodicals, and videos; annotations of recommended literature by grade level (K-8); and reprints of materials on communicating with parents, comprehensive literacy programs, position statements, reading, literature conversations, writing, spelling, curriculum inquiry, and common tools for evaluation. (RS)

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